

## **Regarding Bill # 666**

Good afternoon, Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Perry Koutroulas.

On November 2006 I landed myself into rehab for the sixth time in my 38 years of life. But things are different now. This time I am on methadone and I've finally opened up to my counselors and clinicians at the CVH program. As my time comes near to the end of the program, I am faced with a problem: there aren't many options for sober living while on methadone.

My choices are limited to two places I've read about. I made a decision that Evergreen sounds like the place for me.

Upon arrival at Evergreen Sober House, I was greeted by a couple of clients with warmth and caring.

My first two weeks at Evergreen, Pamela Allen asks if I could help manage her home and oversee the gentlemen who live with me. I have done this kind of thing before in Phoenix House so I am flattered and accept the position.

Being at Evergreen has given me structure in my life to maintain sobriety on a daily basis. I attend 90 & 90 AA meeting schedule, aftercare and Step Group on Friday evenings with Pam and other members of the house.

Being manager of the house has given me a hands-on experience with addiction in dealing with people on a one-on-one basis and as a group or family setting in the house. It has kept it green for me as they say in the rooms of AA. I am able to face any every day obstacle that life throws at me without using drugs as a solution. At the age of 38 years old, I came at the crossroads of my life and I have chosen the orthodox road to follow and part of that has to do with Evergreen Sober House and Pam Allen in giving me a chance and believing in me while others turned there backs on me or closed their doors. Evergreen is an important part of my life and I try to help other people everyday. In doing that I help myself stay sober.

Thank you.

Perry Koutroulas